

4th February, 1800.

*Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Friday next.*

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## A Bill

To establish a general Stamp-Office.

1 SEC. 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
2 the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there shall be  
3 appointed an officer to be denominated superintendant of stamps, whose  
4 duty it shall be to superintend the stamping and marking of all vellum,  
5 parchment and paper, to distribute the same among the officers who  
6 are, or shall be authorized to secure and collect the duties thereupon,  
7 and to keep fair and true records and accounts of his proceedings: which  
8 said officer so to be appointed, shall be subject to the superintendence,  
9 controul and direction of the Treasury Department, according to the  
10 respective authorities and duties of the officers thereof; and shall, for the  
11 better execution of the duties and trusts in him reposed, observe and  
12 execute such directions as he shall from time to time receive from said  
13 department,

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said superintendant shall  
2 hold his office at the seat of the government of the United States, and  
3 shall be allowed as a compensation for his services, the sum of  
4 dollars annually, to be paid quarter-yearly  
5 at the Treasury of the United States; and shall also be allowed the

6 necessary expenses of office rent, fuel, printing and packing, and of  
 7 procuring books and stationery for the use of his office, and that all  
 8 letters and packages to and from him shall be free of postage.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said superintendant shall,  
 2 with the approbation of the principal officer of the Treasury Depart-  
 3 ment, employ such number of clerks and other assistants in his office as  
 4 shall be found necessary, and shall apportion and vary the compensation  
 5 to each in such manner as the services rendered by each shall in his  
 6 judgment require; provided that the whole amount of the compen-  
 7 sations to said clerks and assistants shall not exceed  
 8 dollars, annually.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said superintendant  
 2 shall, within three months after entering upon his office, give bond with  
 3 sureties for the true and faithful execution thereof, and for the settle-  
 4 ment of his accounts at the periods which shall be prescribed by the  
 5 proper officers at the Treasury-Department, in the sum of  
 6 dollars, which bond shall be approved by the Comptroller of the Trea-  
 7 sury, and kept in his office to be by him put in suit for the benefit of  
 8 the United States, upon any breach of the conditions thereof.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the establish-  
 2 ment of the office aforesaid at the seat of government, and after three  
 3 months notice of the new stamps hereby directed to be prepared and  
 4 issued, which notice shall be given by the Secretary of the Treasury, in  
 5 the manner directed by the tenth section of the act entitled "An act  
 6 laying duties on stamped vellum, parchment, and paper" so much of the  
 7 act or acts heretofore passed, as empower and require the supervisors of  
 8 the revenue to stamp or mark any vellum, parchment, or paper, shall  
 9 cease and determine.

**SEC. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That if any deed, instrument or writing whatever, charged by law with the payment of duty, shall have been, or shall be written or printed, by any person or persons whomsoever, upon vellum, parchment, or paper not stamped or marked according to law, or upon vellum parchment, or paper stamped or marked, at a lower rate of duty than is by law required for such deed, instrument or writing, then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for the person or persons holding such deed, instrument, or writing, to pay to the collector of the revenue within whose collection district such person or persons shall reside, the duty chargeable by law on such deed instrument or writing, together with ten dollars in addition to such duty, which duty and additional sum of ten dollars, such collector is hereby authorized and required to receive, and without fee or reward to endorse a receipt therefor, under his hand and seal upon some part of such deed instrument or writing, which deed, instrument or writing, so endorsed it shall then be lawful for such person or persons to produce to the surveyor of the revenue within whose assessment district such person or persons shall reside, which surveyor thereupon and upon the payment by such person or persons of \_\_\_\_\_ cents, as a compensation for his trouble, which he is hereby authorized to demand and receive, shall certify under his hand and seal and upon some part of the said deed, instrument or writing, that the same so endorsed as aforesaid, has been produced to him and that the said endorsement is in his belief, genuine; after which said endorsement and certificate, and not otherwise, such deed, instrument or writing shall be to all intents and purposes, as valid and available, as if the same had been or were stamped, counterstamped, or marked as by law required any thing in any act to the contrary notwithstanding.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That every collector of the re-  
 2 venue shall keep a separate account of all monies by him received in  
 3 manner last aforesaid, and shall from time to time transmit the said ac-  
 4 count together with such monies, and a memorandum of all receipts by  
 5 him endorsed in manner aforesaid, to the supervisor of the district, or  
 6 the inspector of the survey, as the case may be; and that every surveyor  
 7 of the revenue shall from time to time, transmit to the said supervisor or  
 8 inspector as the case may be, a true copy of all certificates given by him  
 9 as aforesaid, and of the receipts respectively certified.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person with intent to  
 2 defraud the United States of any sum of monies directed to be paid by  
 3 this act, or of any of the duties or duty laid by the act entitled "An act  
 4 laying duties on stamped vellum, parchment, and paper" shall counterfeit  
 5 or forge, or cause or procure to be counterfeited or forged, any of the  
 6 certificates receipts or endorsements, provided for and directed by the  
 7 sixth section of this act, or shall utter, pass away, vend or offer in evi-  
 8 dence, in any court of justice, any such forged or counterfeit receipt,  
 9 certificate or endorsement, knowing the same to be forged, or counter-  
 10 feit, then every such person so offending, and being thereof convicted in  
 11 due form of law, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall  
 12 be subject to be fined in any sum not exceeding one thousand dollars,  
 13 and to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding seven years.

1 SEC. 9. *And for the convenience of those persons who may be in-*  
 2 *clined to have their own vellum, parchment, and paper, stamped or*  
 3 *marked, be it further enacted*, That when any person, or persons shall  
 4 deposit any vellum, parchment, or paper, at the office of any supervisor,  
 5 accompanying the same with a list which shall specify the number and

6 denomination of the stamps or marks which are to be thereto affixed,  
7 it shall be the duty of the said supervisor to transmit the same to the  
8 stamp office at the seat of government, where such paper, parchment,  
9 and vellum shall be properly marked or stamped, and forthwith sent  
10 back to the said supervisor, who shall thereupon collect the duties and  
11 deliver the vellum, parchment, and paper, pursuant to the order of the  
12 person from whom it was received.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That all vellum, parchment, and  
2 paper, to be stamped or marked at the said office, shall, before it is de-  
3 livered for sale, use or distribution, be carried from the said office, to  
4 the office of the commissioner of the revenue, and be there counter-  
5 stamped or marked, under the direction of the said commissioner, and  
6 in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury shall devise and direct;  
7 and after being so counter-stamped or marked, shall be returned to the  
8 office of the superintendant of stamps, to be by him distributed according  
9 to the true intent and meaning of this act, of all which vellum, parch-  
10 ment, and paper, so sent to be counter-stamped, or marked, and so re-  
11 turned to the office of the superintendant aforesaid, an account shall be  
12 kept, by the commissioner of the revenue, and from time to time re-  
13 turned to the proper officers of the Treasury-Department.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons,  
2 with intent to defraud the United States of any of the duties or duty,  
3 laid by the act entitled "An act laying duties on stamped vellum,  
4 parchment, and paper", shall counterfeit or forge, or shall cause, or  
5 procure to be counterfeited, or forged, or shall knowingly, or wilfully  
6 aid or assist in counterfeiting, or forging, any stamp, counter-stamp, or  
7 mark, which shall be provided or made in pursuance of this act, or shall  
8 counterfeit, or resemble, or shall knowingly and wilfully aid or assist in

9 counterfeiting or resembling, or shall cause to be counterfeited or re-  
10 sembled, the impresson of any such stamp, counter-stamp or mark,  
11 upon any vellum, parchment or paper, or shall knowingly or wilfully,  
12 utter, vend, or sell, or offer in evidence in any court of justice, any vel-  
13 lum, parchment or paper, with such counterfeit mark, or impresson  
14 thereon, or shall privately, or fraudulently use any stamp, counter-  
15 stamp, or mark directed or allowed to be used by this act, then every  
16 such person so offending, and being thereof convicted, in due form of  
17 law, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and be subject to be fined  
18 in any sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisoned for any  
19 time not exceeding seven years.